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NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Jitney buses in San Francisco now give transfers to the municipal street cars.

Germany is reported to be building two railways to the frontier of Alsace-Lorraine.

It is reported that the Russians have pillaged and destroyed 89,000 homes in East Prussia.

The German reichstag has adopted without debate the war estimates, and also passed the foreign estimates.

One of Washington's largest shingle mills, located at Centralia, has reopened since shutting down the first of the year.

Numerous plagues and diseases prevalent in Serbia are reported to be devastating a large percentage of the population.

It is estimated by Alice Clement and Mary Riley, policemen of Chicago, that one woman in each twenty in that city smoke cigarettes.

Governor Spry, of Utah, vetoes prohibition bill passed by the legislature, declaring that the saloon is simply transferred to the drug store.

City of Portland has just completed a municipal barn of the most modern type. The horses will have sanitary stalls, washroom and hospital.

Protesting against the action of the board of regents of the University of Utah, in dismissing four teachers, 14 other professors have resigned.

Washington government considers that the recent notes from the allies do not give the proper answers, which, our government deems, should be in detail.

Austria is reported to be continuing work on the fortifications all along the Italian frontier, and the garrisons have been reinforced by artillery and infantry.

The French chamber of deputies has unanimously passed a bill authorizing the government to raise the limit for the issue of treasury bonds for defense from \$700,000,000 to \$900,000,000.

Another British steamer, the Glenartney, from Bangkok for London loaded with rice, has been torpedoed by a German submarine off Beachy Head in the English Channel. Only one of the crew was drowned.

Testifying before the "American land" investigation, an owner of 12,000 acres in Texas, admitted that tenants with large families were desirable because the children could be pressed into work, especially during the rush season.

Mine-laying drills by the troops at Fort Stevens, Oregon, were commenced this week under the direction of the officers on board the steamer Major Ringgold. The drills are being held in the night, a short distance below the government wharf. The practice will be continued until the opening of the fishing season on May 1.

Wife of ex-Governor Moody of Oregon, died suddenly at Salem.

United States government will send a sharp protest to England and her allies for the commercial blockade against Germany.

Sinking of the cruiser Dresden by British is claimed to be unfair by the German officers, inasmuch as the vessel was at anchor in neutral waters. It is also claimed that a shell from the British warship killed a woman and child on shore.

The largest superdreadnaught in the world was launched at Newport News by Uncle Sam. She will carry twelve 14-inch guns and has a displacement of 4000 tons more than England's largest warship. The cost to build her is \$14,000,000.

The German sea raider, Prinz Eitel Frederick, at Newport News for repairs, honored America by having the band play the Star-Spangled Banner as the President's yacht passed on its way to the launching of the superdreadnaught Pennsylvania.

Germany has sufficient food to meet her needs for two years, according to W. D. Boyce, editor of the Chicago Ledger, and Horace Herr, editor of the Indianapolis Times, who have just returned from a trip through Germany. Messrs. Boyce and Herr said that Germany was only "bluffing" about a food shortage.

Living on \$6 a week in New York is a simple problem, Miss Dorothy Miller, a 19-year-old shop-girl, told a legislative committee investigating the minimum wage problem. If one wants more clothes, she explained, it is only necessary to eat less food and if more food is wanted, skimp on the clothes allowance.

Allies Lose Three Ships by Turks' Floating Mines

London—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines while engaged with the remainder of the allied fleet in attacking the forts in The Narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

The crews of the two British ships were virtually all saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine and most of her crew was lost.

The Bouvet sank within three minutes of the time that she hit the mine. The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines, but the British admiralty asserts that the Turks and Germans set floating containers of explosives afloat and these were carried down by the current onto the allied ships gathered inside the entrance of the straits.

All the ships that were sunk were old ones, the Bouvet having been completed nearly 20 years ago and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1898. They were useful, however, for the work in which they were engaged in the Dardanelles.

The destroyed British ships are being replaced by the battleships Queen and Implacable, vessels of a similar type. They are said to have started some time ago for near Western waters in anticipation of just such losses as have now occurred. Two other ships engaged in the fighting, the British battle cruiser Inflexible and the French battleship Gaulois, were hit by shells and damaged.

The British casualties, according to the British official report, "were not heavy, considering the scale of the operations."

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is said that the operations against them are continuing. The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is said that the operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked were those on either side of Kephez bay and on Kephez point outside The Narrows and those on Killid Bahr and Chanak in The Narrows.

The Kephez forts replied strongly when the battleships advanced, firing, up the Dardanelles, and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that these forts finally were silenced and a bombardment of those in The Narrows was under way when the three battleships struck mines. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood that the bombardment was resumed.

Five Russian Lines Fall Before Austrian Attack

Vienna, via London—Herr Lennhoff, correspondent of the Zeitung Am Mittag, sends the following dispatch from Austrian headquarters under date of March 18:

"The Russian offensive against the Carpathian line has broken down more quickly than was first expected, considering the vigor with which the attack was begun. The Russians' hope was to break the Austrian and German lines east of Lupkov pass. They sent forward huge forces there, but all attacks were repulsed with enormous Russian losses, and the Austrians and Germans are steadily, if slowly, gaining ground.

"The Russian tactics consisted in charging in five successive lines. As soon as one line was cut down another advanced, until all five had been shot down. The Russians sent forward all available troops, even adjuncts, like the older men who previously were used only as guards for the military workshops. Even military tailors and cooks were forced into the attacking line.

"This caused an apparent relaxation in the vigilance of the Russian vedette service. German troops making a flanking movement over difficult terrain found all the pickets, even the machine gun divisions, sleeping. In battle, however, the Russians fought recklessly, firing while standing with their bodies entirely exposed to the hottest hail of bullets.

"The attacking forces, chiefly Siberians, held their ground stubbornly. Although many hundreds were taken prisoners, none of them surrendered readily, but had to be overpowered in the trenches. It finally became evident that the Russians lacked reserves of equal quality."

Karlsruhe Rumor Grows.

London—The secretary of the British admiralty announces that there is every reason to believe that the German cruiser Karlsruhe was sunk in the neighborhood of the West Indies at the beginning of November. Those of her crew who were rescued, he says, reached Germany early in December on the steamer Rio Grande, which had been acting in concert with the Karlsruhe.

New State Laws Will Reduce Cost of Elections

Salem—Important changes in the election laws simplifying the registration and election machinery and making material reductions in the expense were enacted at the recent session of the legislature. The new law providing for the election of delegates to party national conventions and Presidential electors will save the state about \$10,000 a year, for, under it, each person so honored must pay his own expenses. House bill 227, which provides for two judges of election instead of three, it is estimated, will save the state \$20,000 each election year.

Just what saving the permanent registration law will effect is difficult to estimate, but it should be a material one. This law, while not considered a perfect one, is regarded as a "step in the right direction." It provides that in registering the electors the county clerks shall use the card index system. The clerks shall register any unqualified elector who may request to be registered at any time after the first Monday in January, 1916, to within 30 days preceding any general or primary election.

As a result electors desiring to vote in the primary May, 1916, will have only about three and one-half months to register.

Electors absent from their county may register before any notary public or county clerk in the county where they may be. In such cases the notary public or county clerk shall mail the affidavit of the elector to the county clerk of the elector's county and may collect a fee not to exceed 25 cents from the elector.

It is declared that in cities and other growing communities precinct boundaries are changing constantly and as a result thousands of electors to vote will have to register at least every two

years. It also is pointed out that many voters may be disfranchised as a result of this provision through ignorance of changes in precinct boundaries. Election experts say the law should have been provided for the county clerks to make the changes necessary for recording the electors in the proper precincts when boundaries are changed without the necessity for re-registrations.

When an elector moves from one county to another the county clerk is authorized to send his registration blank to the clerk of the county where the elector locates.

House bill 228 is designed to facilitate voting. It dispenses with the poll book and substitutes precinct register lists. It will not be necessary for the clerk to write the names of the electors as they vote, but instead he will check the names off on his lists.

One of the most important laws passed by the legislature is that providing for the election of delegates to party conventions and Presidential electors. Under the law which it repeals, the voters could vote for only one delegate and one elector. Under the new law, with the present apportionment, each party will be entitled to two delegates from each congressional district and four from the state at large. Under it every elector of a political party will have the right to vote for two delegates from his congressional district and four from the state at large. Nomination of Presidential electors is from the state at large, and each voter will be entitled to cast his ballot for the number of electors allotted his party. The provisions under the present law which authorize the state to pay the expenses of the delegates is repealed and henceforth they will have to pay their own expenses, as they do in other states.

Hood River Apple Growers' Association Votes to Secede

Hood River—The board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers' association has recommended that the Hood River association withdraw from the North Pacific Fruit Distributors.

Final action, however, rests with the members of the local association, who will vote on the question at the annual meeting in April. The vote of the directors was unanimous. A series of meetings will be held throughout the valley to discuss the action of the directors.

Prominent growers who are acquainted with the sentiment throughout the community declare that the action of the board of directors will receive practically the unanimous support of the organization's membership.

"I know of a tonnage of at least 100,000 boxes of apples that will be immediately signed up with the association," says Oscar Vanderbilt, a member of the recently elected Growers' Council, "as soon as it is learned that the Apple Growers' association is no longer an affiliation of the Distributors."

While it was expected that the growers at the April meeting would in all probability take action to withdraw from the Distributors, this action on the part of the board of directors came as a great surprise. The haste with which the board acted probably comes as a direct result of the failure of Mr. Vanderbilt Saturday to accept a nomination to the board for the coming

Oregon Asked for Militia.

Salem—Governor Withycombe has made application to the Navy department for the assignment of the old battleship Oregon to Portland for use by the Naval Militia of the state. It would replace the cruiser Boston now in the Portland harbor. The governor acted upon the suggestion of Adjutant General White, who believes the assignment of the historic vessel to Oregon waters would give great impetus to the upbuilding of the militia.

In writing the Navy department the governor strongly urged that the loan of the Oregon be granted this state. He pointed out that the assignment of the battleship would aid materially in increasing the scope and efficiency of the Naval Militia and would have a great deal to do in popularizing and perpetuating the organization. He further dwelt upon the fitness, from a sentimental standpoint, of having the battleship transferred to its namesake state.

City's Threats Cut Rates.

Baker—That the proposed municipal electric light plant would put his company out of business and that the company had been forced by threats of the municipal plant to lower its rates was the testimony of F. A. Harmon, general manager of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company, before the State Railroad commission in its final hearing of the company's rates here.

year. After the meeting, when asked his motive in refusing the nomination, he explained that he preferred to be a free lance to being tied up with the Distributors. The board held a meeting Saturday night, with the result that the above announcement was made.

With relations with the North Pacific Fruit Distributors severed, the Hood River Valley will undoubtedly be the most strongly organized section in the Northwest, because many growers who now ship independently will join the association. It is estimated that 95 per cent of the Hood River apples will be shipped this year through the local association.

Many growers during the past two years have shipped independently on account of the affiliation. These will now join the local association, which will market its fruit direct.

While the local growers do not find fault with the basic principles of the Spokane agency, complaint has been heard because of the overhead expense, which, it is declared, is exorbitant. The financial management also has been criticized. While returns are received at the main office soon after sales are made, because of the complexity of pools the grower has to await too long before receiving his money.

H. F. Davidson, president of the Distributors, is a member of the board of directors of the Apple Growers' association.

Brother Gets Insurance.

La Grande—Like a letter from the grave came word to Edward Bussey, a cabdriver of this city, from his brother, the late Major General Cyrus Bussey, who died in Washington and was buried in Arlington Cemetery recently. The La Grande man knew nothing of his brother's death until a letter came that had been written in 1913, to be held until death visited the old general. With the letter came notice that considerable life insurance had been left in the La Grande man's name. The epistle was a brotherly farewell.

Two Claim County Bonds.

Ontario—The Malheur county bonds, issued at the fall election for the construction of a bridge across the Snake river at Big Bend, and sold at public sale on March 1 to Hall & Lewis, a bonding firm, of Portland, at a premium of \$1910, are now being held by Keeler Bros., of Denver, who claim the bonds by virtue of a sale on March 1, signed by the County clerk, at a premium of \$750.

Board Job Bars Sales.

Salem—Attorney General Brown, in response to a query by Frank Steiwer, district attorney of Umatilla county, held that it is unlawful for a school director, who is a merchant or a stockholder and manager of a corporation, to sell supplies to a school district.

Southern Landlords Want Child Laborers

Dallas, Texas—J. Tom Pagitt, owner of 12,000 acres of Texas land, described some tenant problems on his estate from the land owner's point of view before the Federal committee on industrial relations at its American land question hearing Saturday. The Pagitt place in Coleman county, he said, has 22 tenant families or about 2000 acres, the remainder being leased to cattlemen.

He said his agent prefers to get tenants with large families of children, because the country is so sparsely settled that the women and children form almost the only available source of extra labor supply in cotton picking season. The women among his tenants, he said, usually chop, hoe, and help with picking cotton. Children begin work in the fields at about 8 years of age.

A tenant, he said, would have difficulty hiring farm hands, because he could not, as a rule, pay their wages until after the crop was sold.

Describing conditions, Mr. Pagitt said the cheapest tenant house on his place has two rooms and cost \$225, while the largest has four rooms, costing \$400. None are screened, he said.

"Would you object to a tenant who believed in certain principles of government or reform, advocating them while living on your place?" asked Mr. Walsh.

"No," replied Mr. Pagitt, "but I would not like a tenant who stirred up trouble by talking at the store and trying to make other men dislike his landlord."

"What hours should a tenant spend at work?" asked Commissioner Walsh.

"Well," replied Mr. Pagitt, "in crop season some of them go to work at 4 in the morning, some at 6, and they generally work until dark."

U. S. Considers Allies As Not Answering Note

Washington, D. C.—The United States government considers that Great Britain and France, in the British order-in-council and in the accompanying notes, have not answered the questions propounded to them as to what warrant there is under international law for the establishment of an embargo on all commercial intercourse, directly or indirectly, between Germany and neutral countries.

It was declared officially at the State department that this government still does not know whether the action of the allies is intended as a legal blockade or whether the ordinary rules of contraband and non-contraband are to be the legal basis for future detentions. On a determination of this question probably will depend not only the nature of any steps which may be taken by the United States at this time, but also the basis for the many claims for damages arising out of interruptions to American commerce under the new policy of the allies.

Submarine Contract Let.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Daniels signed contract plans for the navy's first sea-going submarine and announced that it would be known as the Schley, in honor of the late Rear Admiral Schley. The contract, as well as contracts for three harbor defense submarines, was awarded to the Electric Boat company, of Groton, Conn.

Navy officials believe the new sea-going submarine, upon which construction will now be commenced, is the first of that type in the world. Her displacement will be in the neighborhood of 1000 tons, with a surface speed of 20 knots and in underwater speed of between 10 and 12 knots.

One Woman In 20 Smokes.

Chicago—One woman in every 20 in this city is a cigarette smoker, according to an estimate after an investigation by Alice Clement and Mary Riley, policemen. In the Jewish, Polish and Italian districts the percentage of smokers is smaller, they said, only 2 per cent of the women using tobacco. "We covered all parts of the city," said Miss Clement. "Few working girls or girls of the middle classes smoke. The habit does not seem to be growing."

Officer Loss Is Growing.

London—A casualty list of officers received from the headquarters in the field, under date of March 15, gives the names of 83 officers, including Hindus, who were killed or have died from wounds, and of 123 wounded or missing. This brings up the total casualties among officers since March 10, as officially reported, to 195 killed or dead from wounds and 316 wounded or missing.

Poker Legal in Nevada.

Carson City, Nev.—After rushing through a gambling law the Nevada legislature adjourned early Saturday. The gambling law makes all gambling a felony except poker, whist, solo and five hundred. When no percentage is taken these are lawful games. Otherwise they are felonies. Prarie Mutual betting on tracks of licensed associations is permitted.

TRADE RESUMING NORMAL BASIS

General Revival of Business Is Seen In All Lines.

Bank Clearings Show Big Gains— Prospects of Large Crop Also Gives Impetus.

Chicago—Trade in general lines all over the country has shown reasonable improvement. Encouraging reports come from all sections of the country, embracing the centers of large industries.

Significance attaches to the increase in last week's bank clearings at the agricultural centers, Kansas City showing a gain of 25.5 per cent over figures of a year ago. Minneapolis gained 23.8 per cent. Omaha increased 10.5 per cent. St. Paul and Duluth gained 4 per cent each.

Enormous orders for machinery are a feature of the trade situation, both for domestic and foreign account.

The steel and iron business has held its own. Railroad financing progresses and steel and equipment orders are being placed with more freedom for the more urgent requirements of transportation lines.

Steel mill operations averaged around 69 per cent in the past week, which shows that specifications against contracts are holding up.

Unmistakable evidence of strong underlying confidence that great business activity will come to the United States is reflected in preparations now being made by bankers to meet the conditions.

General business has been creeping steadily back to a normal basis and, as it moves ahead, each week gathering stronger momentum, the country is nearing another agricultural harvest. Winter crops never before furnished such an encouraging outlook and, in view of high prices received for the last yield, dealers believe it is safe to assume that spring plantings of all grains and cereals will be greatly enlarged in acreage this season.

Bankers have gone into seasonable conditions like this before, probably not exactly the same in respect of circumstances which the foreign war has brought up, but they know what the harvest period means to them in requirements of funds with which to finance the movement of farm products.

They also realize that the trade volume promises to attain great height if the coming crops are large ones and that they must prepare to meet two-fold force of financial requirements. The plethora of wealth created by the last agricultural production is expected naturally to double the effect of another yield of equal proportions with high prices and world-wide demand.

San Juan Forts Fire On German Ship

San Juan, Porto Rico—The German merchant steamer Odenwald, which attempted to leave port Monday without clearance papers, was stopped as she was passing out the entrance to the harbor by two shots across her bows from a five-inch gun and direct shots from a Maxim. She then returned and was taken in charge by the collector of customs.

Permission to sail was refused the Odenwald by the collector, pending instructions from Washington. The steamer has been at San Juan since August 6. She was bound for European ports from the West Indies with freight and passengers and sought refuge here. She began coaling and taking on provisions three days ago.

Failing to obtain the necessary clearance papers, her commander apparently decided to risk the attempt to put to sea. A heavy gun on Morro Castle sent two shots across her bows as a warning, but it was not until the machine gun opened a direct fire that the steamer stopped and headed back to port.

Sarah To Act Until Death.

New York—In a letter received here by Lou Tellegen, formerly her leading man, Sarah Bernhardt says: "I am continuing to improve rapidly. You ask if I will go on playing. How can you ask? Until the other leg is buried in my grave, I shall never cease to go on acting. I keep up my spirits and have a ravenous appetite for getting back to work."

Army Uses Neutral Food.

London—It was the German submarine U-28 which seized the Dutch steamers Batavier V and Zaanstroom, according to the Daily News' Rotterdam correspondent. U-28 has been for some days sheltering under the lee of the Maas lighthouse, taking toll from all shipping, especially British.